

HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Priority Problem Justification

Heart Conditions

High Blood Pressure:

Heart Disease was the leading cause of death in Gibson County during 1994. A total of 205 deaths were attributed to heart disease, this translates into a rate of 454.6 per 100,000 of the population. Tennessee's rate is 321.8.

Stroke was the #3 leading cause of death in Gibson County in 1997. A total of 63 deaths were attributed to stroke, this translates into a rate of 139.7 per 100,000 of the population. Tennessee's rate is 80.8.

A look at the 9 year period 1986-1994

Average Number of Deaths for 3 year Periods Shown

	1986-88	1989-91	1992-94
Heart Disease	234	228	194
Stroke	69	58	62

Contributing Factors:

The following are comparisons of the State of Tennessee Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Data and the adult population of Gibson County. There are an estimated 35,351 adults residing in Gibson County.

- 18.7% of adult TN residents have been told they have high cholesterol levels. 18.7% of Gibson County's population would mean 6,611 residents have elevated cholesterol levels.

- 26.7% of adult TN residents were told they have high blood pressure. 26.7% of Gibson County adult population would mean 9,439 residents have high blood pressure.

Obesity:

Estimates of Overweight Individuals in Gibson County

Population Group	Population Total	Overweight	
Children age 6-11	3,700	14% Nationally	518 est.
Adolescents age 12-17	3,736	12% Nationally	448 est.
Adults age 20 +	33,944	35% Nationally	11,880 est.

Tobacco Use:

Tobacco use is addictive and is responsible for more than one of very five deaths in the United States (CDC Report, 1996). On average, more than 3,000 young persons, most of them children and teens, begin smoking each day in the United States. Approximately 82 percent of adults aged 30-39 years who have smoked daily had their first cigarette before 18 years of age. National surveys indicate that 70 percent of high school students have tried smoking and that 28 percent reported having smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days (CDC, 1991).